

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /120 W

----- 129861

P R 061220 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9777

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5827

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR III SITREP - 6 APRIL 1973

FOL TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA DTD APRIL 6
RPTD TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L/ NOFORN BIEN HOA 0057

1. BETWEEN 0800 AND 2230 APRIL 5 TON LE CHAM BASE CAMP RECEIVED
236 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR, ROCKETS, HOWITZER AND B-40
GRENADES.

FOUR ARVN RANGERS WERE WOUNDED. OHERE WAS NO G97,\$ -55-:(. VC/ NVA
ACTIVITY SLACKENED IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. AT 1015 APRIL 5 THE
73 RD RANGER BATTALION OPERATING THREE KM NORTHWEST OF PHUOC BINH
CITY RECEIVED AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY OF 61 AND 82 MM MORTAR ROUNDS.
TWO RANGERS WERE WOUNDED AND ONE IS MISSING. THAT AFTERNOON FIVE
ROUNDS OF 107 MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED INTO THE VAN KIEP BASE
CAMP ONE KM NORTHEAST OF PHUOC BINH. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.
VC/ NVA ACTIVITY WAS STEPPED UP IN TAY NINH PROVINCE ON APRIL 5.
THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) OF OVER 20 ROUNDS, AND THREE GROUND
ATTACKS WERE REPORTED. THE 2 ND BATTALION OF THE ARVN 49 TH
REGIMENT, LOCATED 14 KM NORTHEAST OF TAY NINH CITY, RECEIVED
40 ROUNDS OF 105 MM HOWITZER AT 0915 HOURS. AT 1230 HOURS
ANOTHER ABF OF 50 ROUNDS OF 10"0 .. AND 30 ROUNDS OF AT-3 VS
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ANTITANK MISSILES WAS RECEIVED BY THE SAME UNIT. IN ADDITION, FIVE SA-7 ANTI- AIRCRAFT MISSILES WERE FIRED INTO THEIR LOCATION. ONE ARVN SOLDIER WAS KILLED, ONE WOUNDED AND ONE M-548 TANK DESTROYED IN THESE ATTACKS. AT 1330 THE COMMAND POST OF THE ARVN 48 TH REGIMENT, LOCATED 11 KM NORTHEAST OF THE PHU KHUONG DISTRICT CAPITAL IN TAY NINH PROVINCE RECEIVED NINE ROUNDS OF 107 MM ROCKETS, ARVN LOST ONE KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED. AN HOUR LATER A COMPANY SIZE VC/ NVA UNIT ATTACKED THE 3 RD BATTALION OF THE 49 TH REGIMENT 18 KM NORTHEAST OF PHU KHUONG. THE VC/ NVA LOST SIX KILLED, ARVN NINE WOUNDED. AT 2000 THE 312 TH RF BATTALION WAS ATTACKED BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE VC/ NVA FORCE THREE KM NORTHEAST OF HIEU THIEN DISTRICT SEAT. THE VC/ NVA LOST EIGHT KILLED. THE RF HAD ONE WOUNDED, AND CAPTURED A B-40 LAUNCHER AND FOUR AK-47 S. TWO LIGHT HARASSING GROUND PROBES WERE REPORTED IN HAU NGHIA AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES. ELSEWHERE IN MR III THERE WAS NO HOSTILE ACTIVITY REPORTUL.

2. THERE IS MORE VC GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN NHON TRACH AND LONG THANH DISTRICTS, SOUTHER BIEN HOA PROVINCE. AT 1830 APRIL 4 THE VC FIRED ON A POPULAR FORCE SQUAD PATROLLING IN PHU HOI VILLAGE, NHON TRACH DISTRICT, AND IN THE SAME VILLAGE TWO WOODCUTTERS WERE INJURED BY A VC MINE IN THE FOREST. VC FORCES ARE SAID TO BE STAYING WITHIN 300 LETERS OF VARIOUS HAMLETS IN LONG THANH DISTRICT, SUPPORTING VC ACTIVITIES AND BUYING SUPPLIES FROM THE PEOPLE.

3. THE BIEN HOA PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. LAM QKFNG CHINH, ONE OF THE ABLEST IN MR III, TOLD THE INTERPORVINCE REPRESENTATIVE APRIL 5 THAT HE IS CONCENTRATING HEAVILY ON THE VILLAGE ELECTIONS, WHICH WILL BE HEWH IN 41 OF BIEN HOA'S 65 ACTIVE VILLAGES IN MAY AND JUNE. HE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF APPROVING CANDIDATES, PRESUMABLY FOR DEMOCRACY PARTY NOMINATIONS, SINCE THE FORMAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM (GRVN) SECURITY CLEARANCE STAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT DEMOCRACY PARTY CANDIDATES WOULD SWEEP THE BOARDS, AND THAT EVEN IF THE FREEDOM PARTY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE MOUNTED CAMPAIGNS, THEY COULD ACCOMPLISH LITTLE OR NOTHING. WITH REGARD TO THE CURRENT SPECIAL SIX- MONTH RECONSTRUCTION AND RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS, CHINH COMPLAINED THAT THE COORDINATION IMPOSED IN RECENT YEARS BY THE CENTRAL PACIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SEEMS TO HAVE BROKEN DOWN, AND THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY " TASKS" AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS BEING IMPOSED ON THE

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PROVINCE GOVERNMENT BY VARIOUS MINISTRIES. ONE OF THESE IS
THE CLASSIFICATION OF VOTERS INTO A (PRO- GVN), B (UNDECIDED) AND
C (PRO- NLF) BY THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT CADRE; CHINH GRUMBLED
THAT THE REQUIREMENT IS NOT ONLY FOR TOTALS, BUT FOR NAME
LISTS AS WELL. MA ONLY REALLY IMPORTANT TASKS, SAID CHINH,
ARE PROVIDING SECURITY, LIFTING ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS
SO PEOPLE CAN MAKE A LIVING, GETTING GRVN SOLDIERS AND POLICE
TO STOP HARASSING
E E E E E E E

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